

Amendments To The Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The A bone fixing device according to claim 23 ~~1~~, wherein the connecting members are deformable symmetrically with respect to the ~~a~~ line extending through the center of the ~~pair of~~ fixing portions such that the fixing portions are drawn toward one another along the line.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The A bone fixing device according to claim 23 ~~1~~, wherein the connecting members are parallel to each other prior to being deformed.

7. (Currently Amended) The A bone fixing device according to claim 23 ~~1~~, wherein each connecting member has at least one point of weakness at which bending of the connecting member occurs in preference to elsewhere on the connecting member.

8. (Currently Amended) The A bone fixing device according to claim 7, wherein each of the at least one point of weakness is a necked portion of the respective connecting member.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The A modular system according to claim 27 40, wherein ~~at least one of the each fixing portions~~ portion is in the form of an annulus, wherein the annulus defines the hole of the fixing portion.

12. (Currently Amended) The A modular system according to claim 27 44, further comprising at least one washer for concentrically overlapping with an annulus of a bone fixing device which is not overlapped by another bone fixing device.

13. (Currently Amended) The A modular system according to claim 12, wherein ~~the hole within the at least one each~~ washer comprises a hole having a frusto-conical portion to receive the head of a bone screw.

14. (Currently Amended) The A modular system according to claim 13, wherein the hole within ~~the at least one each~~ washer comprises a cylindrical portion to receive the shaft of a bone screw.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) A bone fixing device for fixing bone pieces together, the bone fixing device consisting of:

first and second fixing portions, each fixing portion provided with either a single hole or two holes only; and

first and second connecting members formed integrally with the first and second fixing portions, each connecting member extending directly to each of the first and second fixing portions and lying symmetrically about a line extending through a centre of the fixing portions, the connecting members being deformable to draw the fixing portions together wherein the connecting members substantially maintain their position after deformation.

24. (New) The bone fixing device according to claim 23, wherein each fixing portion comprises a respective annulus defining each of the holes.

25. (New) The bone fixing device according to claim 23, wherein the first fixing portion comprises two holes wherein the two holes of the first fixing portion lie on a line perpendicular to the line extending through the centre of the fixing portions.

26. (New) The bone fixing device according to claim 23, wherein the first fixing portion comprises two holes wherein the two holes lie on the line extending through the centre of the fixing portions.

27. (New) A modular system for fixing bone pieces together, the modular system comprising at least two bone fixing devices, each bone fixing device consisting of:

first and second fixing portions, each fixing portion provided with a single hole, and first and second connecting members formed integrally with the first and second fixing portions, each connecting member extending directly to each of the first and second fixing portions and lying symmetrically about a line extending through a centre of the fixing portions, the connecting members being deformable to draw the fixing portions together wherein the connecting members

substantially maintain their position after deformation;

wherein one fixing portion of one of the bone fixing device concentrically overlaps with and is pivotally connectable to a fixing portion of another one of the bone fixing devices by a bone fastener extending through the holes of the overlapped fixing portions.

28. (New) The modular system according to claim 27 wherein the fixing portion of each bone fixing device has a thickness of approximately one half of that of the connecting members.